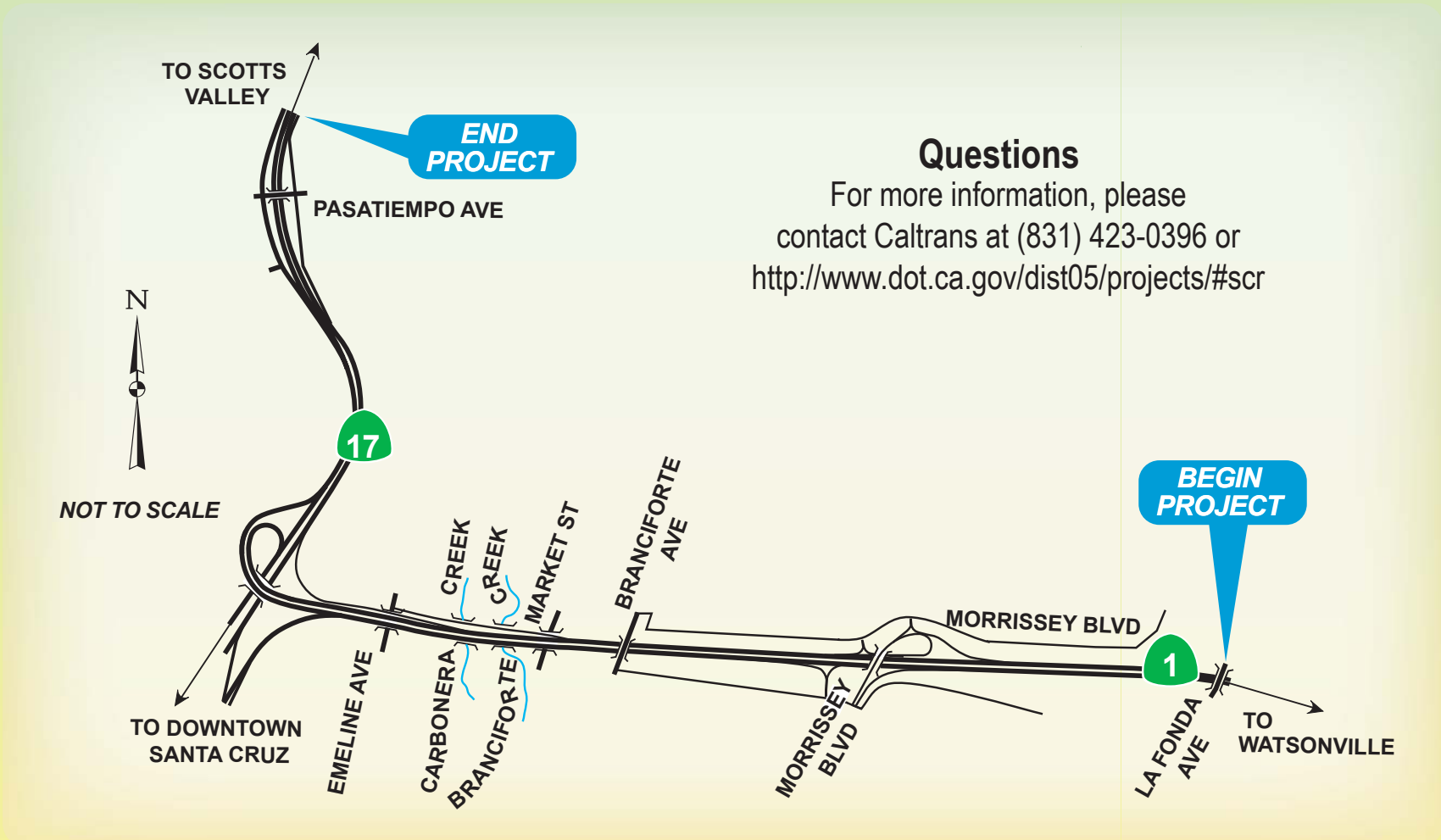




Route 1/17 Widening for Merge Lanes, City of Santa Cruz

Project Purpose	This is the biggest upgrade of the busy Highway 1/17 interchange since it was built over 40 years ago. The project will address localized safety and operational deficiencies.	
Background	Motorists traveling northbound on Route 1 and southbound on Route 17 must navigate the 1/17 interchange through loop ramps and difficult merges. The traffic volumes through the interchange have surpassed the original design volumes, resulting in congestion, inefficient traffic flow and accidents.	
Project Description	The improvement project would add merge lanes to the connection between northbound Route 1 and northbound Route 17, and to southbound Route 1 through the 1/17 interchange. Existing bridge structures would be widened or replaced, and soundwalls constructed. The project area would be landscaped with redwoods, live oaks, and vines playing a prominent role in the planting design.	
Project Cost	Construction cost: \$48 million	
Funding Sources	The project is proposed to be funded through the StateTransportation Improvement Program (STIP)	
Project Timeline	Anticipated Construction Start:	Spring 2006
	Construction Complete:	Mid-2009



February 15, 2006



US Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration